Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4, 8, 19 and 27. Please add new claims 31 and 32 as follows:

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1. (original) A communication system comprising:

an IP-enabled communication network;

at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the remote site comprising:

(a) a plurality of subscribers,

(b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,

(c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the switch, and

(d) a gateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the communication network; and

at least one service site connected to the communication network, the service site comprising:

(e) a service platform providing voice services;

(f) a switch connected to the service platform;

(g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the switch, and

(h) a gateway interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the communication network.

2. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the service platform comprises a voicemail platform.

3. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the service platform comprises a unified messaging platform.

4. (canceled)

5. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the communication network carries voice over IP (VoIP).

6. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the communication network carries voice over frame relay (VoFR).

7. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein the communication network carries voice over ATM (VoATM).

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8. (canceled)

9. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each multi-line hunt group comprises:

a plurality of voice communication lines; and

at least one signaling line carrying signaling data.

10. (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein each gateway converts voice received over communication lines and signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by the communication network.

11. (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein each gateway converts line signaling protocols into a format acceptable by the communication network and passes the converted line signaling protocols to at least one service site.

12. (original) A communication system as in claim 9 wherein each gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at a different site to exchange signaling data.

13. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication network bandwidth.

14. (original) A communication system as in claim 1 wherein each gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the communication network.

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15. (original) A communication system for transmitting audible messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:

a locality of subscriber units;

a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least one signaling line carrying signaling data; and

a gateway in communication with each multi-line hunt group and the communication network, the gateway converting voice information received over each communication line and signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by the communication network.

16. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the gateway formats data for voice over IP (VoIP).

17. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the gateway formats data for voice over frame relay network (VoFR).

18. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the gateway formats data for voice over ATM (VoATM).

19. (canceled)

20. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the gateway implements a tunneling scheme with at least one gateway at a different site to exchange signaling data.

21. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the gateway compresses and decompresses voice information for reduced communication network bandwidth.

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22. (original) A communication system as in claim 15 wherein the gateway performs DS-0 mapping to map individual hunt group members across the communication network.

23. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:

receiving information from at least one of a plurality of subscribers;

determining at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines and at least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group to carry the received information and associated signaling;

formatting information on each of the voice communication lines and signaling lines into a format compatible with the communication network; and

sending the formatted information over the communication network.

24. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled communication network as in claim 23 further comprising:

receiving the formatted information over the communication network;

reformatting the converted information back into the original format for transmission over at least one of a plurality of voice communication lines and at least one signaling line in a multi-line hunt group; and

sending the reformatted information over a multi-line hunt group.

25. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent to a service platform comprising a voicemail platform.

26. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled communication network as in claim 23 wherein the reformatted information is sent to a service platform comprising a unified messaging platform.

27. (canceled)

28. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries voice over IP (VoIP).

29. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries voice over frame relay (VoFR).

30. (original) A method of communicating over an IP-enabled communication network as in claim 23 wherein the communication network carries voice over ATM (VoATM).

31. (new) A communication system comprising:

an IP-enabled communication network;

at least one remote site connected to the communication network, the remote site comprising:

(a) a plurality of subscribers,

(b) a switch interconnecting the plurality of subscribers,

(c) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the switch, and

(d) at least one wide area network access device interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the communication network; and

at least one service site connected to the communication network, the service site comprising:

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(e) a service platform providing voice services;

(f) a switch connected to the service platform;

(g) at least one multi-line hunt group connected to the switch, and

(h) at least one wide area network access device interfacing each multi-line hunt group and the communication network.

32. (new) A communication system for transmitting audible messages over an IP-enabled communication network comprising:

a locality of subscriber units;

a switch interconnecting the subscriber units, the switch routing traffic outside of the locality of subscriber units over at least one multi-line hunt group, each multi-line hunt group including a plurality of voice communication lines and at least one signaling line carrying signaling data; and

at least one wide area network access device in communication with each multi-line hunt group and the communication network, the wide area network access device converting voice information received over each communication line

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and signaling data received over each signaling line into a data format acceptable by the communication network.